

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 23, 2006. Claims 1-12 are pending.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hieber (US 4,543,576) in view of Nishizawa. It is noted that the Examiner has modified the Section 103(a) rejection compared to that in the previous Office Action. This new Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires that “*a distal end of the temperature sensing element projects outwardly from a surface of the rotary table so as to be brought into close relation to or in contact with a bottom surface of the wafer.*” E.g., see page 9, lines 1-4, and Fig. 2, of the instant application. Hieber and Nishizawa fail to disclose or suggest this feature. In response to the addition of this language, the Office Action appears to be now contending that the temperature sensing element of Hieber includes not only elements 14 and 15, but also contacts 2-6. This allegation lacks merit. Contacts 2-6 in Hieber are for measuring electrical resistance, not temperature. Thus, contacts 2-6 in Hieber are *not* part of the thermometers 14 and 15.

Because contacts 2-6 in Hieber are not part of the temperature sensing elements 14, 15, the aforesaid italicized feature of claim 1 cannot be met by Hieber. Moreover, citation to Nishizawa cannot cure the aforesaid flaws in Hieber. Thus, even the alleged combination (which applicant believes would be incorrect in any event) fails to meet the invention of claim 1.

Claim 11 stands rejected under Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hieber in view of both Nishizawa and Imahashi. This Section 103(a) rejection is also respectfully traversed. Claim 11 requires a “cooling section for *cooling at least one of the temperature measuring section and the signal generating section.*” Imahashi, cited by the Office

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Action for a cooling system, merely discloses a cooling system for cooling a wafer. Imahashi mentions nothing about cooling a temperature measuring section and/or a signal generating section. Thus, there is no suggestion in the art of record of a cooling section for cooling at least one of the temperature measuring section and the signal generating section, as required by claim 11. The Office Action's contention (see section 44 of the Office Action) that Imahashi's cooling section would necessarily also cause "all other structures attached to the substrate table . . . [to be] cooled as well" lacks support, is incorrect, and is based in impermissible hindsight. This is not the case.

For at least the aforesaid reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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